

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9856

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2326

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, OVIP, NO, US

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO DELEGATION VISITS NORWAY

SREF: (A) OSLO A-107

(B) OSLO A-97

SUMMARY: AFL-CIO VISIT TO NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION

(LO) MAY 28-JUNE 2, WAS VALUABLE IN INCREASING US INFLUENCE

AND BETTERING TIES TO NORWAY'S DOMINANT LABOR MOVEMENT.

FRIENDLY, FRANK TALKS BETWEEN HIGH-LEVEL AFL-CIO DE-

LEGATION AND TOP LO LEADERS AND LABOR PARTY POLITICIANS

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CLARIFIED DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED LO AND AFL-CIO VIEWS ON

EAST-WEST LABOR CONTACTS, AS WELL AS THEIR AGREEMENTS ON MOST OTHER ISSUES. THEIR AGREEMENT ON PLO ISSUE AT ILO WAS OF PARTICULARLY IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE. NEXT STEP IN LO-AFL-CIO CONTACTS WILL BE FORMAL INVITATION TO LO PRESIDENT ASPENGREN TO VISIT PRESIDENT MEANY EN ROUTE TO OR FROM FALL ICFTU CONGRESS IN MEXICO. END SUMMARY. END CONFIDENTIAL. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. AFL-CIO DELEGATION IN OSLO. HIGH-LEVEL AFL-CIO DELEGATION OF AFLCIO VICE PRESIDENTS MARTIN WARD AND EDWARD CARLOUGH AND INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ERNEST LEE VISITED NORWAY MAY 28-JUNE 2 AT INVITATION OF NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION(LO). THEY SPENT FIRST TWO-AND-A-HALF DAYS IN INTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH LO PRESIDENT TOR ASPENGREN, VICE PRESIDENT(AND PRESUMED NEXT PRESIDENT) ODD HOJDAHL, TREASURER EINAR STRAND, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KAARE SANDEGREN AND OTHER KEY LO FIGURES, AS WELL AS STORTING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOR OFTEDAL AND LABOR PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY IVAR LEVERAAS. THEY CONVERSED AT LENGTH WITH LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY LEADER AND EXPECTED FUTURE PRIME MINISTER ODVAR NORDLI, LEVERAAS AND LO AND TRADE UNION LEADERS AT DINNER GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR.

3. STAVANGER AND BERGEN. DELEGATION SPENT LAST TWO DAYS VISITING STAVANGER AND BERGEN, ACCOMPANIED BY SANDEGREN. LEE LEFT GROUP IN STAVANGER TO FLY TO JERUSALEM AFTER STOP BACK IN OSLO. THEY MET WITH STATE OIL COMPANY DIRECTOR ARVE JOHNSEN IN STAVANGER, VISITED OIL RIG AND SHIP CONSTRUCTION AND MET WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS IN BOTH CITIES AND ATTENDED USIS-SPONSORED CONCERT AND AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION AT BERGEN FESTIVAL, BEFORE DEPARTING FOR GENEVA ILO CONFERENCE.

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3. PLO AT ILO. PRESSED BY LEE, ASPENGREN ENUNCIATED LO POLICY OF OPPOSING PLO AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE BECAUSE IT FIT NONE OF ILO'S CATEGORIES(I.E. IT NEITHER GOVERNED CONFIDENTIAL

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A STATE, MANAGED INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS NOR REPRESENTED WORKERS IN THEM) AND THUS HAD NO INTEREST IN ILO ISSUES. ASPENGREN SAID ALL NORDIC LO'S HAVE AGREED TO OPPOSE PLO ON THIS BASIS AND WILL TRY TO CONVINCE THIRD WORLD REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE HAD AND PREVENT ISSUE FROM REACHING FLOOR. AFLCIO POSITION WAS THAT ANTI-PLO LOBBYING EFFORTS WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE IN PERSUADING SPONSORS TO WITHDRAW PLO PROPOSAL UNLESS ENOUGH

REPRESENTATIVES MADE IT CLEAR AHEAD OF TIME THAT THEY WOULD VOTE AGAINST IT IF IT CAME TO A VOTE. ASPENGREN AGREED THAT NORWAY'S LO WOULD DO THIS.

4. EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONTACTS. AFLCIO GROUP REPORTEDLY USED EVERY OCCASION TO REITERATE BOTH MORAL AND PRACTICAL DRAWBACKS AND DANGERS IN DEALING WITH COMMUNIST WORKER CONTROL APPARATUS AS IF IT WERE TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION PARTICULARLY DANGER OF DISRUPTION, EXPLOITATION OR CAPTURE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COOPERATION BY COMMUNISTS. NORWEGIANS ARGUED INSTEAD FOR DESIRABILITY OF ABANDONING DEFENSIVE POSTURE OF COLD WAR DAYS AND TAKING INITIATIVE TO PROBE COMMUNISTS, EXPOSE THEIR SOCIAL SYSTEMS TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCE AND FACE THEM WITH CHALLENGE TO RESPOND TO REALITIES OF DETENTE. THEY MUST SHOW RESTRAINT AND ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE LIMITS NEW SITUATION IMPOSES ON THEM OR FACE CONSEQUENCES IN FORM OF UNIVERSAL REACTION AGAINST THEM AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR COLLAPSE OF DETENTE AND OF EAST-WEST LABOR CONTACTS. LEE ENDED VISIT APPALLED BY INSISTENCE OF MANY NORWEGIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS(PARTICULARLY STATOIL DIRECTOR JOHANSEN) ON IGNORING SOVIET INJUSTICE WHILE DOING BUSINESS WITH SOVIETS, WHILE AT SAME TIME PROTESTING ABOUT AND REFUSING TO DEAL WITH TYRANNIES OF THE RIGHT.

5. VIETNAM. SANDEGREN DISCUSSED HIS VIETNAM TRIP(REF B) WITH WARD, BUT REGRETTED HE HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO LEE ABOUT IT. (SANDEGREN, ANOTHER UNION OFFICIAL AND JOURNALIST DEPARTED FOR HANOI VIA MOSCOW, JUNE 5, TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH SO-CALLED LABOR MOVEMENTS IN VIETNAM AND TRY TO ENSURE THAT NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT HUMANITARIAN AID--

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MEAT,VITAMINS AND ANTIBIOTICS--WILL NOT BE MISUSED POLITICALLY.)

6. ICELAND. LO AND AFL CIO AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE A LONG AND DIFFICULT STRIKE IN ICELAND AND THAT BOTH STATED THAT THEY WERE COMMITTED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT SHOULD THE STRIKE OCCUR.

7. OIL,ENERGY AND MULTINATIONALS WERE OTHER MAJOR TOPICS OF CONVERSATION ON WHICH LO AND AFL-CIO AGREED. RESTRICTION AND CONTROL OF INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES WAS DISCUSSED WITH PARTICULAR RELISH. WARD AND LEE ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR INDEPTH DISCUSSION OF ENERGY POLICY WITH EXPECTED FUTURE PRIME MINISTER NORDLI AND AMBASSADOR.

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY WAS DELIGHTED AT EVIDENT SUCCESS OF AFL-CIO DELEGATION VISIT AND FRIENDLY, FRANK TALKS. AGREEMENT ON ILO-PLO ISSUE WAS POSITIVE IMMEDIATE DIVIDEND. SHARP EXCHANGES ON EAST-WEST CONTACTS OCCURRED AS EXPECTED BUT ATMOSPHERE EXCELLENT DESPITE. NO CHANGE WAS VISIBLE IN LO EAST-WEST ATTITUDES, AND INDEED NONE WAS EXPECTED, BUT AT LEAST LO LEADERS AND OTHER LABOR MOVEMENT FIGURES WERE EXPOSED TO FORCEFUL PRESENTATION OF AFL-CIO VIEWS AND EXPERIENCE, WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE EFFECT. INTEREST IN DIALOGUE ON ENERGY, MULTINATIONALS AND OTHER SUBJECTS WAS FAVORABLE SIGN THAT VISIT MARKS IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF IMPORTANT USG POLICY OBJECTIVE--RESTORING TIES AND INFLUENCE OF US LABOR MOVEMENT AND GOVERNMENT WITH NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT, BOTH PARTY AND LO.
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